

From: David Thieme
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/13/02 2:08pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I sent then attached letter to Att Gen Ashcroft & Senator Rick Santorum.

David C. Thieme
27 Pine Tree Drive
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January 13, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I am writing to encourage you to finalize the Microsoft settlement. The Justice Departments pursuit of Microsoft has cast a dark cloud over the information technology industry for more than three years. I work for Ciber and our business has slowed down drastically due to the unknown future of Microsoft. Companies are afraid to move forward, new technology is not being used, all because Microsoft's future is unknown. I for one blame the Federal Government for the current recession. This blatant attack on corporate America is, in my opinion based solely on jealous envy of their success. America no longer has a free market system. By interfering with Microsoft our government has impacted our economic system in ways that will take longer to repair than it did to inflict such harm. The current proposed settlement will at least allow Microsoft to refocus its energies in the American arena where it is sorely needed. Yes, Microsoft is the Giant in the market, but they got there by a vision of the future. A future no other company saw. So why do we punish them for making our future what it is? This action has not only impacted Microsoft but the whole Information Technology community. Many have new innovative ideas but are afraid to act on them for fear of winding up like Microsoft.

As a born again Christian, I was so pleased to see that someone in Washington was not afraid to stand up and acknowledge his beliefs. I felt assured that you would be able to evaluate our laws with the insight and beliefs our founding fathers based this country upon. You understand the importance of our freedoms and the reasons why a Free Market is so successful. The tyranny of government must be returned to a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

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Mr. Ashcroft, it is time to allow innovation to continue in America.

While I fear that this settlement will still continue to snuff out the brightness of our potential technological future, I think it is far better that the past six years have been. The settlement as proposed looks like it will satisfy the prosecutions arguments. It also looks like it will please most of Microsoft's competitors, except the ones who would not be satisfied until Microsoft was no longer in business. The settlement forces Microsoft to share its technological break-throughs with its competition, and open the Windows Operating system source code. It also compels them to stop allegedly anti-competitive practices. All monitored by an oversight committee chosen by the Justice Department and the Microsoft's competitors. I believe sufficient concessions have been made. Most importantly from my view Microsoft will remain a sole corporate entity enabling it to continue to push American Technology into the future we deserve.

The economy needs a Microsoft, as does the Information Technology industry and most importantly America needs Microsoft back in the game. Please support this settlement. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David Thieme

cc: Senator Rick Santorum